

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 123102

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, FR, ETRN, ENRG

SUBJECT: CENTRAL EUROPE PIPELINE SYSTEM (CEPS)

REF: COPENHAGEN 1311

1. CONCUR WITH PARAS 6 AND 7 REF.

2. DURING FIRST MEETING, HOPEFULLY AT PERMREP OR DCM LEVEL, YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE FOLLOWING. BOA FINDINGS ON THE CEPS SITUATION IN FRANCE, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE UNSATISFACTORY TAX AND CIVIL TARIFF SITUATION, CLEARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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DEMONSTRATE THE NEED TO RESOLVE THE RELATED ISSUES OF CIVIL MOVEMENTS AND CEPS DEFICIT FINANCING. WITH THE GROWING CIVILIANIZATION OF THE CEPS, AND THE BENEFITS TO THE HOST NATIONS WHICH RESULT, WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUED DEFICIT CONTRIBUTIONS BY NON- HOST USER NATIONS ARE NOT WARRANTED. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT U. S. IS NO LONGER WILLING TO ACCEPT STATUS QUO AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO POSITIVE ACTION ON TAXES AND TARIFFS RESULTING IN ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL CEPS OPERATING DEFICITS. IN ADDITION FUTURE TARIFF STRUCTURE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR AMORTIZATION OF THE CAPITAL COST OF OPERATING EQUIPMENT WORN OUT IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL MOVEMENTS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE USNATO AND EMBASSY PARIS ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF VARIOUS COUNTERACTIONS WHICH ARE LIKELY TO BE TAKEN BY THE FRENCH IN RESPONSE TO U. S. INITIATIVES. WE ARE CONCERNED IN PARTICULAR WITH ANY ADVERSE IMPACT YOU MIGHT ANTICIPATE ON CONTINUED UTILIZATION OF THE U. S. DONGES- METZ PIPELINE. RUSH

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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